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MAY 28 2004
REQUEST
FOR
CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000,

Provides for continued examination of a utility or plant

Application filed on or after June 8, 1995.

See The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA)

Application Number: 09/723,459
Filing Date: November 28, 2000
First Named Inventor: Menon, et al.
Group Art Unit: 1614
Examiner Name: C. Ostrup
Attorney Docket Number: 680.0041USU
CUSTOMER NO.: 27623

JUN 2 2004

TECHNICAL CENTER 1614/27623

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

Note: 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 153 (d) (PTO/SB/29) instead of RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Final Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 50092 (August 16, 2000); Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (March 20, 2000), 1233 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (Apr. 11, 2000), which established RCE practice.

1. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114

a. Previously submitted

i. Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. 1.116 previously filed on _____ (any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).

ii. Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed filed on _____

iii. Other _____

b. XXXXX Enclosed

i. XXXXX Amendment/Reply

ii. Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)

iii. Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) and PTO-1449

iv. Other _____

2. Miscellaneous

a. Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of _____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) required)

b. Other _____

3. Fees The RCE fee Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 when the RCE is filed.

a. XXXXX The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 01-0467.

i. XXXXX RCE fee (\$770.00) required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e)

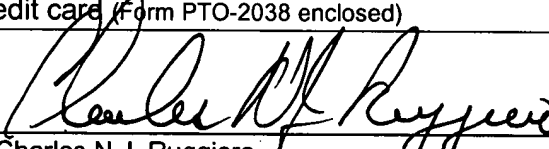
ii. XXXXX Extension of Time fee (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 1.17)

iii. Other _____

b. XXXXX Check in the amount of \$ 880.00 enclosed

c. Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

May 26, 2004
Date of Signature


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on May 26, 2004.

Leslie Moscatello
NAME


SIGNATURE

5/26/04
DATE